PATENT
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IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend the claims, without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means and a bell shape with an arched opening;

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means; and

respective attachment means for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means,

wherein the one or more side blocks comprises a body part contact means removably attached thereto for contacting the body part and wherein the body part contact means has a bell shape with an arched opening

the one or more side blocks are adjustable laterally and longitudinally on the base by moving the respective attachment means along the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means, and

the one or more side blocks are adjustable rotationally by rotating the one or more side blocks around the respective attachment means.

2. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1, wherein said body part contact means comprises a foam pad.

3. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1, wherein said body part contact means comprises a hook and loop fabric type-style fastener.

4. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body part contact means has a shape which substantially corresponds to the shape of a mating face of said

side block to which said body part contact means is removably attached.

5. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body part contact means is of a color which is dissimilar to the color of said side block to which said body part contact means is removably attached.

6. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body part contact means is removably attached to said corresponding side block by means of a two-sided adhesive fastener.

7. (Currently Amended) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said ~~replaceable~~ body part contact means allows for re-use of said corresponding side block.

8. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein the one or more side blocks further comprise strap fastening means removably attached thereto for removably fastening a restraining strap extending across a body part.

9. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 8 wherein the strap fastening means is rotatable so that a surface of the extended strap is adjustable to a particular angle.

10. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 8 wherein said strap fastening means comprises a hook and loop fabric type-style fastener.

11. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 8 wherein the strap fastening means is disposed at a particular angle so that a surface of the extended strap is at said angle.

12. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 8 wherein said body part contact means and said strap are capable of being easily removed, decontaminated and replaced.

13. (Original) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 1 wherein said body part contact means are removably attached to the corresponding side block by extending fastening

means through corresponding openings in said body part contact means to engage said corresponding side block.

14. (Original) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means;

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means;

a plunger-type lock for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means by depressing the plunger-type lock

wherein the base includes body part contact means removably attached thereto for contacting the body part,

the one or more side blocks are adjustable laterally and longitudinally on the base by moving the respective attachment means along the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means, and

the one or more side blocks are adjustable rotationally by rotating the one or more side blocks around the respective attachment means.

15-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means each comprise an elongated slot and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises means for engaging at least one of the elongated slots.

41. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 40, wherein at least one of the elongated slots comprises a plurality of teeth, and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises a flexible finger that engages at least one of the plurality of teeth in the elongated slot having the plurality of teeth.

42. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the respective positional engagement means and the adjustable engagement means each comprise an elongated slot, at least one of the elongated slots comprising a rack, and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises a flexible finger that engages the rack in the elongated slot having the rack.

43. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 42, wherein the flexible finger comprises a tooth that engages the rack in the elongated slot having the rack.

44. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein one or more of the side blocks comprises a plurality of teeth and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises at least one corresponding tooth that engages one or more of the plurality of teeth of the side block when the plunger-type lock is depressed.

45. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the plunger-type lock comprises means for disengaging the lock from at least one of the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means.

46. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the plunger-type lock adjustably attaches one or more of the side blocks to the base in a first stage and a second stage, in the first stage the plunger-type lock restricts movement in a vertical plane and in the second stage the plunger-type lock restricts movement in at least one of longitudinally and laterally by further depressing the plunger-type lock when in the first stage.

47. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 14, wherein the one or more side block comprises a body part contact means removably attached thereto for contacting the body part.

48. (Previously Presented) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means;

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means;

a plunger-type lock for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means, wherein the plunger-type lock adjustably attaches one or more of the side blocks to the base in a first stage and a second stage, in the first stage the plunger-type lock restricts movement in a vertical plane and in the second stage the plunger-type lock restricts movement in at least one of longitudinally and laterally by further depressing the plunger-type lock when in the first stage.

49. (Previously Presented) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having an elongated slot disposed therein;

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having an elongated slot disposed therein; and

a plunger-type lock for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the elongated slots, wherein at least one of the elongated slots comprises a rack and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises a flexible finger that engages the rack in the elongated slot having the rack by depressing the plunger-type lock to restrict vertical movement.

50. (Previously Presented) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part;

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks; and

a plunger-type lock for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base, wherein one or more of the side blocks comprises a plurality of teeth and wherein the plunger-type lock comprises at least one corresponding tooth that engages one or more of the plurality of teeth of the side block when the plunger-type lock is depressed.

51. (Previously Presented) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means;

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means; and

a plunger-type lock for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the elongated slots, wherein the plunger-type lock comprises a top portion and a bottom portion, the top portion comprises means for engaging the respective positional engagement means and the bottom portion comprises means for engaging the adjustable engagement means by depressing the plunger-type lock.

52. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 51, wherein the arched opening of the contact means has a vertical height that is greater than its longitudinal width.

53. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 51, wherein the arched opening of the contact means comprises a first curve disposed between two other curves and wherein the first curve has a radius smaller than the radius of the other curves.

54. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 51, wherein the contact means has an outer bell shape with a plurality of projections extending therefrom.

55. (Previously Presented) The body part immobilization apparatus of claim 52, wherein the outer bell shape of the contact means and the plurality of projections extending therefrom are essentially symmetrical about a vertical axis.

56. (Previously Presented) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means and a bell shape with an arched opening;

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means; and

respective attachment means for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base by engaging at least one of the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means,

wherein the one or more side blocks comprises a body part contact means having an outer bell shape with an arched opening removably attached to the side block for contacting the body part, the arched opening comprising at least at least one curved portion, and outer bell shape having a plurality of projections extending therefrom essentially symmetrical about a vertical axis.

57. (Previously Presented) A body part immobilization apparatus, comprising:

one or more side blocks for securing at least one side of a body part, the one or more side blocks having respective positional engagement means comprising an elongated slot.

a base for mounting the one or more side blocks, said base having adjustable engagement means comprising an elongated slot; and

respective attachment means for adjustably attaching each of the one or more side blocks to the base, wherein the respective attachment means comprises a flexible finger that engages at least one of the elongated slots in the adjustable engagement means and the respective positional engagement means.

58. (Previously Presented) A pad removably attached to a side block for securing at least one side of a body part, the pad comprising:

an outer bell shape with a plurality of projections extending therefrom essentially symmetrical about a vertical axis; and

an arched opening comprising a first curve disposed between two other curves, the first curve having a radius smaller than the radius of the other curves.

59. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 58, wherein each of the projections extending from the outer bell shape corresponds to projections on the side block.

60. (Previously Presented) The pad of claim 58, wherein each of the projections has a shape comprising a first and second segments each extending from the outer bell shape and a third segment disposed between the first and second segment essentially orthogonal to the first and second segments.

61. (Previously Presented) A side block for securing at least one side of a body part, the side block comprising:

position engagement means disposed on a first portion of the side block;

head immobilizing means disposed on another side of the side block; and

at least one portion having a tapered-wall bell shaped cross section.

62. (Previously Presented) The side block of claim 61, wherein the at least one portion having a tapered-wall cross section is disposed between the first portion and the second portion of the side block.